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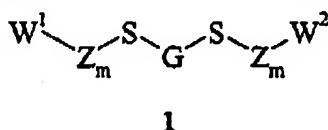
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the current application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of ~~a the~~ formula 1:



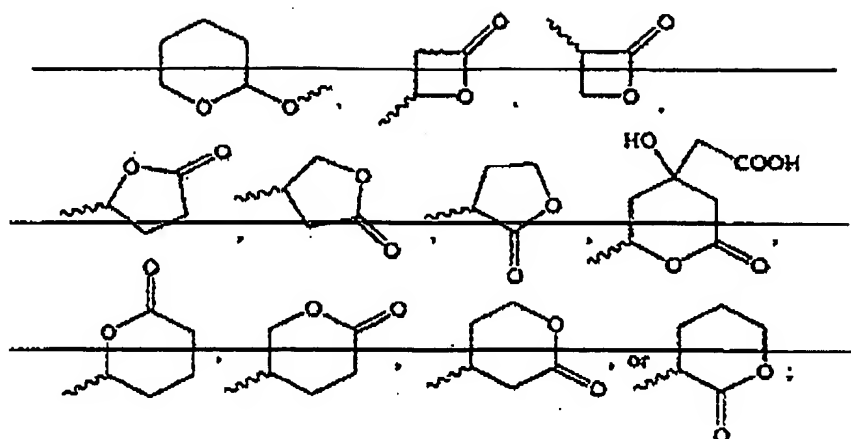
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or mixture thereof, wherein

- (a) each occurrence of Z is ~~independently CH₂, CH=CH, or phenyl, and where each~~ occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9, ~~but when Z is phenyl then its associated m is 1;~~
- (b) G is (CH₂)_x, where x is 2, 3, or 4, ~~CH₂CH=CHCH₂, CH=CH, CH₂-phenyl-CH₂, or phenyl;~~
- (c) W¹ and W² are independently L, V, ~~or~~ C(R¹)(R²)-(CH₂)_c-C(R³)(R⁴)-(CH₂)_n-Y, ~~or~~ C(R¹)(R²)-(CH₂)_c-V where c is 1 or 2 and n is an integer ranging from 0 to 4;
- (d) each occurrence of R¹ or R² is independently (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl or when one or both of W¹ and W² is C(R¹)(R²)-(CH₂)_c-C(R³)(R⁴)-Y, then R¹ and R² can both be H to form a methylene group; or R¹ and R² and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a ~~(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl~~ (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl group;
- (e) each occurrence of R³ or R⁴ is independently H, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, phenyl, benzyl, Cl, Br, CN, NO₂, or CF₃, with the proviso that when R¹ and R² are both H, then one of R³ and R⁴ is not H;
- (f) L is C(R¹)(R²)-(CH₂)_n-Y where n is an integer from 0 to 4;

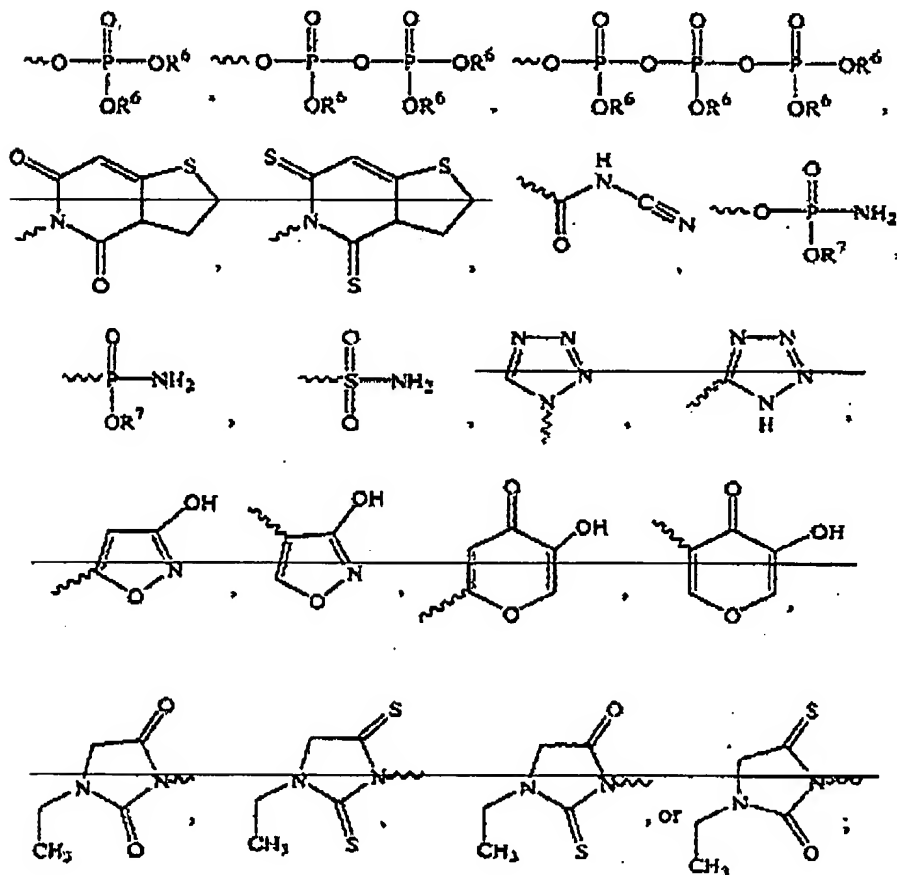
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(h)(g) each occurrence of Y is independently (C₁-C₆)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, COOR⁵, SO₃H,



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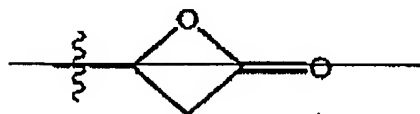
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where

- (i) R^5 is (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_2-C_6) alkenyl, (C_2-C_6) alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, or phenyl groups,
- (ii) each occurrence of R^6 is independently H, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_2-C_6) alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6) alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and
- (iii) each occurrence of R^7 is independently H, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_2-C_6) alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6) alkynyl; and

provided that:

- ~~(i) if G is $(CH_2)_x$, x is 2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 1, and W^1 is of the structure~~



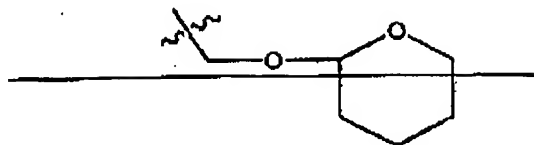
~~then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ;~~

- ~~(ii)(i) if G is $(CH_2)_x$, x is 2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 3, and W^1 $-C(CH_3)_2CO_2CH_3$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ;~~
- ~~(iii)(ii) if G is $(CH_2)_x$, x is 3, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 5, and W^1 $-C(CH_3)_2CO_2CH_3$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ; and~~
- ~~(iv)(iii) if G is $(CH_2)_x$, x is 3, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 5, and W^1 $-CCl_2CO_2CH_3$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ; and~~
- ~~(v) if G is phenyl, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 4, and W^1 is of the structure~~

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then W^2 is not the same as W^1 .

Claim 2 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) W^1 and W^2 are independently both L , V , or $C(R^1)(R^2)(CH_2)_nV$ where n is 1 or 2; and
- (b) R^1 or R^2 are independently (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_2-C_6) alkenyl, (C_2-C_6) alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The compound of claim 2 1, wherein W^1 is L .

Claim 4 (canceled).

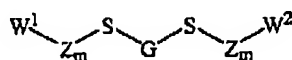
Claim 5 (currently amended). The compound of claim 2 1, wherein W^1 is $C(R^1)(R^2)(CH_2)_nC(R^3)(R^4)(CH_2)_mY$ where n is an integer from 0 to 4.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (original). The compound of claim 2, wherein W^1 and W^2 are independent L groups.

Claim 8 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH , $COOR^5$, or $COOH$.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A compound of the formula Ia:



Ia

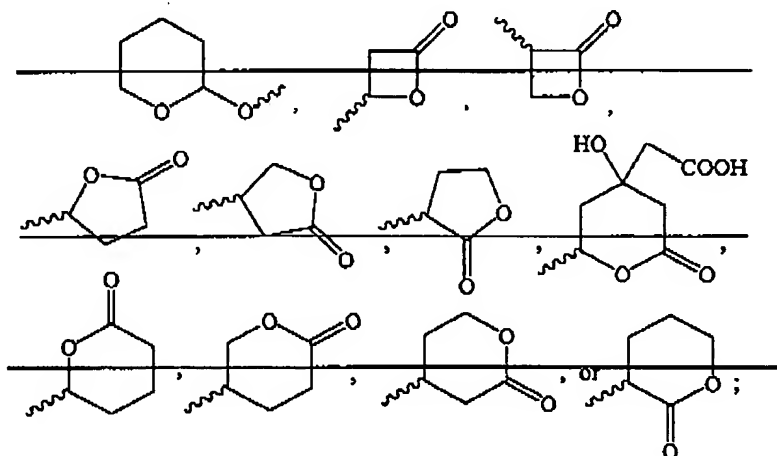
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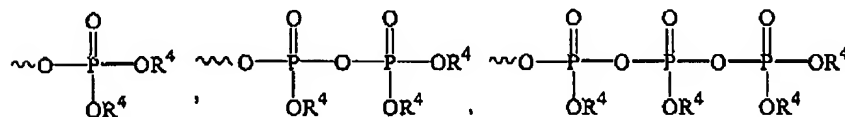
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

- (a) each occurrence of Z is independently CH_2 or $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$, wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;
- (b) G is $(\text{CH}_2)_x$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2$, or $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$, where x is 2, 3, or 4;
- (c) W^1 and W^2 are independently L, V, or $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{R}^2)(\text{CH}_2)_e\text{V}$, where e is 1 or 2;
- (d) each occurrence of R^1 and R^2 is independently $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or R^1 and R^2 and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7)$ cycloalkyl group;
- (e) L is $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{R}^2)(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{V}$, where n is an integer ranging from 0 to 4;
- (f) ---V is



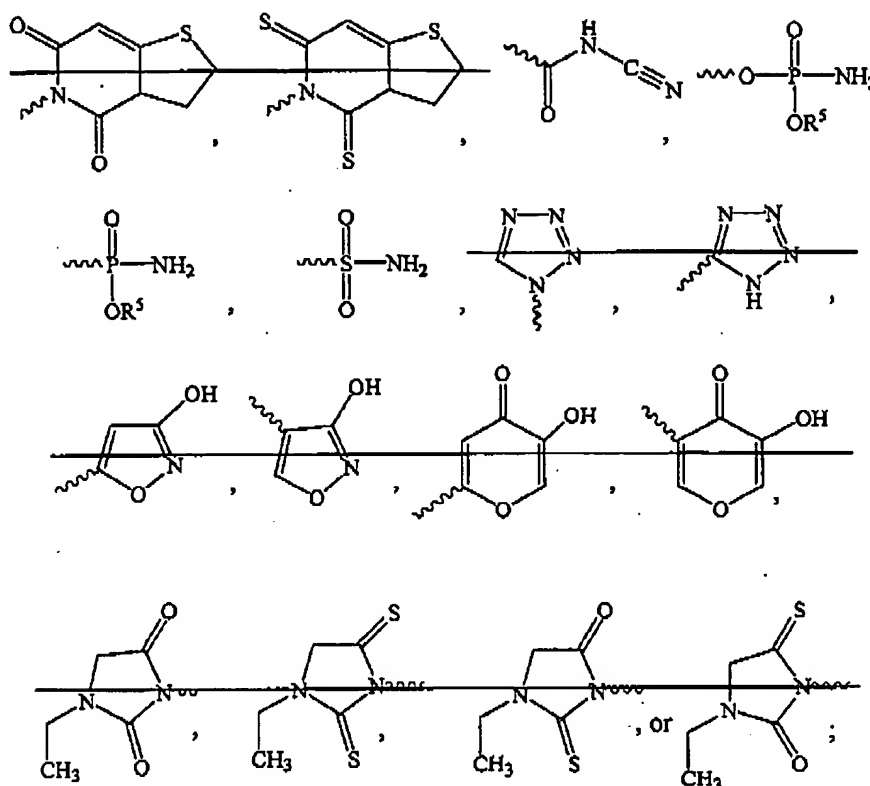
- (g)(f) each occurrence of Y is independently (C₁-C₆)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, COOR³, SO₃H,



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where

(i) R^3 is $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii) each occurrence of R^4 is independently H, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl, or $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii) each occurrence of R^5 is independently H, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)$ alkyl, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkenyl, or $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)$ alkynyl; and

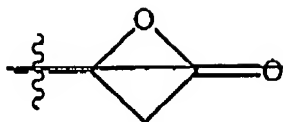
provided that:

(i) ~~if x is 2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 1, and W^1 is~~
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~~then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ;~~

~~(ii)(i)~~ if x is 2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 3, and W^1 $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ;

~~(iii)(ii)~~ if x is 3, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 5, and W^1 $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1 ; and

~~(iv)(iii)~~ if x is 3, each occurrence of Z is CH_2 , each occurrence of m is 5, and W^1 $-\text{CCl}_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1 .

Claims 10-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein W^1 and W^2 are independent L groups.

Claim 14 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH , COOR^3 , or COOH .

Claims 15-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended). A compound according to claim 18 1, having the formula 5-[2-(4-carboxy-4-methyl-pentylsulfanyl)-ethylsufanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentanoic acid.

Claims 20-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

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Claim 35 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising one of the following compounds:

5-[2-(5-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-pentasulfanyl)-ethoxysulfanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentan-1-ol or 5-[2-(4-Carboxy-4-methyl-pentylsulfanyl)-ethylsulfanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentanoic acid or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates, clathrates, enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates or mixtures of stereoisomers thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

Claim 36 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 37 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipidemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 38 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipoproteinemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 39 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disorder of glucose metabolism in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

Claim 40 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, ~~18, 20, 21, 26 or 30~~.

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Claim 41 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Syndrome X in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 42 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing septicemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 43 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a thrombotic disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 44 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 45 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing obesity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 46 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing pancreatitis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 47 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing hypertension in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

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Claim 48 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing renal disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 49 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 50 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing inflammation in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 51 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing impotence in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 52 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a neurodegenerative disease or disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 53 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting hepatic fatty acid synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 54 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting sterol synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 55 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing metabolic syndrome disorders in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment

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or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 56 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by increasing HDL levels, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 57 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by lowering LDL levels, which comprises administering to such patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.